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[54] **METHOD FOR SCREENING AND DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN COBALAMIN AND FOLIC ACID DEFICIENCY BASED ON ASSAY FOR CYSTATHIONINE AND 2-METHYLCITRIC ACID**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[58] **Field of Search** 436/56, 88, 89, 161, 436/173, 74, 76, 92, 129, 174, 175, 177, 120

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[57]

ABSTRACT

A method for screening and distinguishing between cobalamin deficiency and folic acid deficiency by relating elevated levels of cystathionine to cobalamin or folic acid deficiency and relating elevated levels of 2-methylcitric acid to cobalamin deficiency but not folic acid deficiency. The methods can be used alone or in combination with other methods for detecting and distinguishing between cobalamin deficiency and folic acid deficiency.

69 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets